

PATENT
AVAN/000219USA**REMARKS**

The Examiner and the Applicant's undersigned attorney held teleconferences on March 2, 2005 and March 3, 2005 to discuss ways to further prosecution. The amendments to the claims provided herein reflect the substance of those teleconferences.

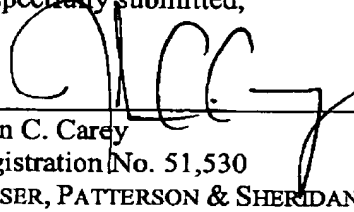
Applicant submits that these claim amendments do not present any new matter. Specifically, Figure 1 and lines 34-37 of page 6 of the specification support the trough width limitations set forth in new claims 12, 15 and 16. Figure 2 and lines 25-37 of page 10 of the specification support the limitations that the couplings between the waveguides and the fibers reside in the troughs (new claims 12 and 15). Lines 29-34 of page 8 of the specification support the hot-stamping limitation of new claim 16. New claims 13 and 14 and the last two limitations of new claim 16 are supported by lines 4-13 of page 11 of the specification. Finally, claim 16 is generally supported by line 25, page 10 through line 14, page 11 of the specification.

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CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that, after entering the claim amendments set forth herein, the pending claims will be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, please contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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